

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 PRS-01 SAM-01 NSC-04

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R 171501Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CI

SUBJECT: US ARTIFACTS FOR SANTIAGO EXHIBITION

REF: SANTIAGO 3943, USIA 15253

1. REFTEL MAY NOT COMPLETELY INDICATE SIGNIFICANCE OF REQUEST MADE TO US BY WIFE OF CHIEF OF STATE PINOCHET FOR A DISPLAY OF US TYPICAL ARTIFACTS TO BE SHOWN DURING A LARGE EXHIBIT CONTAINING SIMILAR ARTICLES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, IN SANTIAGO NEXT NOVEMBER.

2. REQUEST STEMS FROM VERY ACTIVE AND QUITE IMPRESSIVE WOMEN'S SOCIAL WORK ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY AND UNDER WIVES OF MEMBERS OF CHILE'S MILITARY JUNTA. THIS GROUP, INCLUDING WIVES OF MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS, HAS UNDERTAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY THE JOB OF SUPPLEMENTING CHILE'S INSUFFICIENT SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM, THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND AND IN MONEY TO THE NEEDY AND THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED. REGIME ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO SUCCESS OF THIS EFFORT, SO AS TO GIVE DUE EMPHASIS TO ITS HUMANISTIC APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT.

3. FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH SENORA DE PINOCHET IT IS CLEAR THAT AS OF EARLY JULY SHE HAD ONLY A VAGUE IDEA OF PRECISELY WHAT KIND OF ARTIFACTS SHE DESIRES.

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SHE HAS, HOWEVER, ASKED A LARGE NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS

FOR FOREIGN EXHIBITS. ENTRANCE FEES COLLECTED AT THE EXHIBITION WILL GO TO CHILEAN SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS.

4. I BELIEVE IT POLITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT USG MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE EXHIBIT, CONSISTING OF ARTIFACTS REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE OR SEVERAL PERIODS OF AMERICAN HISTORY. FOR EXAMPLE, ITEMS OF AMERICAN INDIAN HANDICRAFT, SUPPLEMENTED BY COLONIAL AND 19TH CENTURY EXAMPLES OF ARTISAN WORK SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN WINTERHUR, WITH PERHAPS SOME EXAMPLES OF MODERN AMERICAN ARTISANSHIP, WOULD BE INTERESTING AND EXCITING TO CHILEANS. IF THIS IS TOO AMBITIOUS, A COLLECTION REPRESENTING ONE OR SOME OF FOREGOING COULD STILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

5. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR FOLLOW-UP AS ENVISAGED USIA REFTEL. WOULD STATE/CU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL IDEAS?
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